

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for using unique index codes to index specific electronic information and facilitating the retrieval of such indexed specific electronic information over distributed electronic information networks. In one embodiment an end user will be allocated one or more unique index codes and will associate specific electronic information with each unique index code such that a database of unique index codes with associated specific electronic information is created. The end user will then make this database available on an electronic information server within an electronic information network. The location of this electronic information server is then made known to a central index code management system, where a database is maintained of the location of electronic information servers where the databases containing each unique index code can be found. The end user can then provide a recipient client with a unique index code that is associated with specific electronic information that the end user wishes to distribute to the recipient client. The recipient client can then use a client apparatus to submit the received unique index code to the central index code management system. The central index code management system can then identify the location of the electronic information server where the requested specific electronic information is stored and facilitate the forwarding of this specific electronic information to the recipient client.